

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-13 OPR-02 A-01
SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 PC-01 AID-05 OMB-01 FS-01
MCT-01 SCS-06 CA-01 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
/138 W

-----073415 271903Z /72

O 271655Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6947
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1649

PARIS FOR MURPHY

E.O.11652 GDS TAGS: PINS CD
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION: SITREP 10
REF: NDJAMENA 1631

SUMMARY. PSYCHOLOGICAL ROLLER COASTER CONTINUES ON
SECURITY SITUATION. SUDANESE VP GIVES INTERVIEW EXPLAINING
WORKINGS OF CEASE-FIRE COMMISSION. GOC INTELLIGENCE
SOURCE PROVIDES DISQUIETING REPORT, MOST OF WHICH FRENCH
AMBASSADOR DENIES CATEGORICALLY. FIRST DAY OF GENERAL
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STRIKES FLOPS.

1. THE DAY STARTED WELL IN NDJAMENA AND GOC
SOURCES WERE OPTIMISTIC AS IT APPEARED THAT THE POPULACE
WAS NOT RESPONDING TO FROLINAT CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE.
VP CABINET DIRECTOR N'GAMAI DJARI INFORMED CHARGE THAT
STRIKE WOULD FAIL BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAD

RIMMED CITY WITH SECURITY FORCES AND HAD DISPERSED MEN THROUGHOUT THE QUARTERS AND AT STRATEGIC POINTS. LYCEE AND UNIVERSITY WERE CORDONED OFF.

2. SUDANESE VP ABDOUL GASSIM AND PRESIDENT FILIX MALLOUM HELD SEPARATE PRESS CONFERENCES LAST NIGHT WHICH WERE BROADCAST OVER RADIO NDJAMENA AND PUBLISHED IN INFOTCHAD. THE COMBINED GIST OF THE TWO WAS THAT THE MIXED COMMISSION HAD 75 MILITARY MEN, INCLUDING 15 OFFICERS, ON THE SPOT AND READY TO BEGIN SUPERVISORY DUTIES. THEY WOULD BE STATIONED IN THREE FIELD POSTS AT SALAL, ARADA AND ABECHÉ AS WELL AS AT HEADQUARTER POSTS IN FAYA LARGEAU AND NDJAMENA. IN THE MALLOUM INTERVIEW MENTION WAS ALSO MADE OF A STATMENT BY ABDOUL GASSIM THAT THE PRESENCE OF MISSION MEMBERS WOULD NOT PREVENT THE GOC FROM UNDERTAKING ANY LEGITIMATE DEFENSE EFFORT SHOULD FROLINAT CONTINUE TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS OF MEN AND MATERIEL TO SALAL AND ARADA.

3. CONCERNING THIS SORT OF MOVEMENT, A GOC INTELLIGENCE SOURCE HAS CLAIMED THAT AIRIAL RECONNAISSANCE CONFIRMS THAT A REBEL COLUMN IS MOVING SOUTH FROM ALAL TOWARD THE FRENCH BASE AT MOUSSORO. THE SOURCE INDICATES THAT THERE ARE EITHER 200 TENTS OR COVERED TRUCKS SPOTTED BY THE

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HIGH FLYING MISSION. ADVANCE ELEMENTS OF THIS COLUMN WERE REPORTED TO BE ONLY 60 KMS NORTH OF MOUSSORO. THE SOURCE ALSO CLAIMED THAT ATTACK HAD BEEN LAUNCHED LAST NIGHT AT MIDNIGHT AGAINST IRIBA (200 KMS NORTHEAST OF ABECHÉ) WHERE 82 FRENCH SOLDIERS WERE ISLOATED AND AWAITING A SECOND ASSAULT.

4. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DALLIER FLATLY DENIED TO ME MOST OF THE CLAIMS MADE BY THE INTELLIGENCE SOURCE. DALLIER SAYS THAT THERE ARE RPT NO FRENCH SOLDIERS IN EASTERN CHAD AND THAT THE DEFENDERS AT IRIBA CONSIST OF APPROXIMATELY 50 CHADIAN NOMADIC GUARDS. HE AGAIN CONFIRMED WHAT THE CONSUL GENERAL TOLD ME THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, THAT FRENCH SOLDIERS WERE REMOVED FROM ABECHÉ AT THE TIME THE LAST FRENCH CIVILIANS DEPARTED. AMBASSADOR DALLIER ALSO SAID THAT NO RPT NO LARGE ADVANCE WAS BEING MADE ON MOUSSORO, ALTHOUGH HE ALLOWED THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOME REBEL MOVEMENT 25 OR 30 KMS SOUTH OF SALAL.

5. A NUMBER OF DAO AND EMBASSY SOURCES REPORTED THAT JAGUAR AIRCRAFT WERE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE TODAY.

OUR OWN OBSERVATIONS SHOW THERE ARE NOW 10 OF THESE
PLANES ON THE GROUND AT NDJAMENA. AMBASSADOR DALLIER
STATES NO MISSIONS ARE PLANNED FOR TODAY OR
TOMORROW AND THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THEIR PRESENCE
HERE IS PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE TO EXERT PRESSURE ON
FROLINAT FOR THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM SALAL, ARADA, AND
GUERADA. HE DOES NOT DENY THEY MAY BE USED IN THE
FUTURE BUT SAYS OUR INFORMATION ABOUT IMMEDIATE MISSIONS
IS INCORRECT.

COMMENT: IT IS MY JUDGEMENT THAT WITH ALL
THE UPS AND DOWNS, WE NOW REMAIN ABOUT WHERE WE
WERE YESTERDAY. UNCERTAIN. OUR PCV'S TODAY
RETURNED SAFELY FROM BOL AND WILL REMAIN IN NDJAMENA
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UNTIL THE SITUATION CLARIFIES. AMERICAN DEPENDENTS
SPENT THE DAY AT HOME OR AT MY SWIMMING POOL AND
HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO THE SAME TOMORROW EVEN THOUGH
THE FIRST DAY OF THE STRIKE WAS INEFFECTIVE. THE
EMBASSY E & E COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW MORNING
TO DECIDE WHETHER TO FORMALLY CONTINUE A WARNING
PHASE. ALL SORTS OF RUMORS ARE RAMPANT IN THE CITY,
MOST OF THEM UNTRUE, BUT THE THREAT OF TERRORISM
DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE INCREASED ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL
PRESENT. DALSIMER

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